

## A Possible Coup d'Etat.

The sending of federal troops to Chicago, despite the protest of the governor of the state, marks a new departure in constitutional procedure and will serve as a noteworthy precedent in time to come. In effect, it amounted to interference of government to support an individual capitalist, who, by the admission of journals hostile to the popular cause, stands confessed as an arbitrary autocrat, who haughtily declined arbitration, and at this moment is probably the best hated man in the United States. The mails furnished but a flimsy pretext, for it was proved to demonstration that the mails could easily have been moved but for the underhand trickery of the man Pullman in making every train a mail train. The first time a New Yorker has a dispute with a local postman, he may, on this specious reasoning, subject the city to a visit from the federal troops, despite the protests of the governor and the mayor.

Another point of constitutional interest, pitiful, yet true, is the overawing effect of a small body of federal troops. It has been before now abundantly proved that a small posse of armed and disciplined men are a match for hundreds of thousands, unarmed and undisciplined. It is merely the repetition of Napoleon's "wiff of gunpowder." A resolute and cool-headed soldier can any day overmatch a crowd. But there is a reverse side to the picture. A resolute and determined leader can, under certain circumstances, keep an army at bay. He has but to have absolute determination; to provide adequate weapons; to throw up barricades and to select commanding positions for his artillery, at the corners of a public square or dominating main thoroughfares and (with sufficient resolution) the thing is done. A paltry 5,000 or even 25,000 troops could be easily wiped out. In 1848, people at Berlin and Paris showed what they could do, even in the presence of large standing armies. But merely as a constitutional question we would ask, is it altogether wise for the government to provoke a contest of this nature? It is not absolutely certain that, with a leader of sufficient resolution, victory would remain with the troops.

There are other constitutional questions that might be raised: Is it wise to override state rights? Is there not a possibility of exciting state jealousies, and even provoking a repetition, right or wrong, of the Fort Sumpter episode? Is it fair to incur the additional expense of dragging federal troops from a distance, instead of using the local militia? But a graver question than all these lies behind. Even assuming that the people (a), having no effective weapons and (b) no leader of sufficient resolution, are overawed by the troops, what then? In a spirit of the gravest deliberation, and with a full sense of responsibility, we say it, that the precedent now established, renders a coup d'etat on the part of an ambitious president distinctly possible. We call upon all friends of liberty, upon all true lovers of their country, upon everyone with any regard for constitutional methods to face the issues here raised. Let us for the moment suppose the case of an unscrupulous president, desirous of perpetuating his power. He proceeds with the caution of every successful schemer who has founded a dynasty. As chief of the state he is commander-in-chief of the federal forces. For the "good of the state," or for the "exigencies of the public service," he proclaims himself dictator for a limited term, or for life. Opposition is aroused, let us say, at Chicago or New York. Under

the precedent just established federal troops may be deployed towards any objective point—Chicago or New York as the case may be—regardless of the wishes of the state governors, and it becomes a possibility for the dictator to proclaim himself emperor. We are not talking at random, nor are we conjuring up phantoms where-with to frighten ourselves. We are simply arguing on the principle that history repeats itself, and that what has happened before may happen again. By a precisely analogous course, Napoleon I. founded a dynasty and destroyed the revolution. By similar well-laid schemes, Napoleon III. from president became emperor. The English republic was destroyed by Cromwell, and (to quote one more instance) under the specious guise of a republic, outwardly maintained for some years, Rome bowed her haughty head to a Caesar. There were brave men then, as there are brave men now. But wealth had got concentrated into a few hands; public conscience was dead in the people at large; and so resistance seemed futile. Our case is not altogether dissimilar. Wealth is in the hands of a few, and the people are so seasoned to public scandals that they are slow to move. We have, however, pointed out a danger which history shows to be anything but imaginative.

To our thinking, the men who set the evil precedent, and brought a coup d'etat within the range of possibility deserve impeachment.—The Advance Era (New York), August.

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[First published August 1, 1894.]  
**Proposed Amendment to the Constitution.**

Substitute for Senate Joint Resolutions Nos. 1 and 2.

Be it resolved by the legislature of the state of Kansas: two-thirds of the members elected to each house thereof, concurring therein.

SECTION 1. The following proposition to amend the constitution of the state of Kansas is hereby submitted to the qualified electors of the state for their approval, or rejection, namely: That section 1, article 5, of the constitution of the state of Kansas be amended so that the same shall read as follows: "Section 1. Every person of the age of 21 years and upwards belonging to the following classes, who shall have resided in Kansas six months next preceding any election, and in the township or ward in which she or he offers to vote, at least thirty days next preceding such election shall be deemed a qualified elector. First—Citizens of the United States. Second—Persons of foreign birth who have declared their intentions to become citizens of the United States conformable to the laws of the United States on the subject of naturalization."

SEC. 2. This proposition shall be submitted to the electors of this state at the general election of the representatives to the legislature in the year 1894, for their approval, or rejection; those voting in favor of this proposition shall have written or printed on their ballots "For the suffrage amendment to the constitution;" those voting against the said proposition shall have written or printed on their ballots "Against the suffrage amendment to the constitution;" said ballots shall be received and such vote taken, counted, canvassed and returns made thereof in the same manner and in all respects as provided for by law; as in the case of the election of representatives to the legislature.

SEC. 3. This resolution shall take effect and be in force from and after its publication in the statute book.

I hereby certify that the above resolution originated in the senate January 16, 1893, and passed that body February 8, 1893.

PERCY DANIELS, President of Senate.  
W. L. BROWN, Secretary of Senate.

Passed the house March 1, 1893.  
GEORGE L. DOUGLASS, Speaker of House.  
FRANK L. BROWN, Chief Clerk of House.

Approved March 6, 1893, 3:50 p. m.  
L. D. LEWELLING, Governor.

STATE OF KANSAS,  
OFFICE OF SECRETARY OF STATE,  
I, R. S. OSBORN, Secretary of state of the state of Kansas, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of the original enrolled resolution now on file in my office, and that the same took effect by publication in the statute book May 18, 1893.

In testimony whereof, I have hereunto subscribed my name, and affixed my official seal. Done at Topeka, Kan., this 25th day of July, A. D., 1894.

R. S. OSBORN, Secretary of State.

The "Dogs and the Fless" is a comical, instructive and intensely interesting book. Of course it is political. See premium list.